

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic device, comprising:
 - a nonvolatile memory for storing information regarding said electronic device;
 - an electronic persistent visual display having an input, said electronic persistent visual
 - 5 display providing a visual label display which persists indefinitely, until updated by an input
 - signal at said input;
 - at least one operational element; and
 - a processor for operating said at least one operational element; said processor, in response
 - to a predetermined state, providing an update input signal at said electronic persistent visual
 - 10 display input, said update input signal comprising selected said information regarding said
 - electronic device stored in said nonvolatile memory, said update signal to update said visual label
 - display of said electronic persistent visual display.
2. The electronic device of Claim 1, wherein said predetermined state of said processor
- comprises a power-on and/or reset of said processor.
- 15 3. The electronic device of Claim 1, wherein said processor additionally updates said
- information regarding said electronic device stored in said nonvolatile memory, and said
- processor update signal selected information comprises at least said updated information
- regarding said electronic device.

4. The electronic device of Claim 1, wherein said processor comprises a programmable computer processor and said predetermined state of said processor comprises completion of an update to computer readable program code of said programmable computer processor.

5. The electronic device of Claim 4, wherein said processor additionally updates said
5 information regarding said electronic device stored in said nonvolatile memory with status information related to said update to computer readable program code of said programmable computer processor, and said processor update signal selected information comprises at least said status information.

6. The electronic device of Claim 1, wherein said processor comprises programmable logic
10 and said predetermined state of said processor comprises completion of an update to said programmable logic.

7. The electronic device of Claim 6, wherein said processor additionally updates said
information regarding said electronic device stored in said nonvolatile memory with status
information related to said update to said programmable logic, and said processor update signal
15 selected information comprises at least said status information.

8. The electronic device of Claim 1, wherein said predetermined state of said processor
comprises a state achieved in response to an indication of completion of an engineering change to
said electronic device.

9. The electronic device of Claim 8, wherein said processor additionally updates said information regarding said electronic device stored in said nonvolatile memory with status information related to said engineering change to said electronic device, and said processor update signal selected information comprises at least said status information.

5 10. The electronic device of Claim 1, wherein said predetermined state of said processor comprises a state achieved in response to an indication of a change to said at least one operational element.

11. The electronic device of Claim 10, wherein said processor additionally updates said information regarding said electronic device stored in said nonvolatile memory with status
10 information related to said change to said at least one operational element, and said processor update signal selected information comprises at least said status information.

12. The electronic device of Claim 1, wherein said electronic device additionally comprises an input/output interface; and said predetermined state of said processor comprises a state achieved in response to a signal received at said input/output interface.

15 13. The electronic device of Claim 12, wherein said processor additionally selects said information stored in said nonvolatile memory in accordance with said signal received at said input/output interface.

14. The electronic device of Claim 1, wherein said predetermined state of said processor comprises an expiration of a predetermined interval of time.

15. An electronic device, comprising:

an electronic persistent visual display mounted at said device, said electronic persistent visual display having an input, said electronic persistent visual display providing a visual label display which persists indefinitely, until updated by an input signal at said input;

5 at least one operational element; and

a processor for operating said at least one operational element:

said processor storing information regarding said electronic device; and

said processor, in response to a predetermined state, providing an update input signal at said electronic persistent visual display input, said update input signal

10 comprising selected said information regarding said electronic device stored by said processor, said update signal to update said visual label display of said electronic persistent visual display.

16. The electronic device of Claim 15, wherein said predetermined state of said processor comprises a power-on and/or reset of said electronic device.

15 17. The electronic device of Claim 15, wherein said processor additionally updates said information regarding said electronic device stored by said processor, and said processor update signal selected information comprises at least said updated information regarding said electronic device.

18. The electronic device of Claim 15, wherein said processor comprises a programmable computer processor and said predetermined state of said processor comprises completion of an update to computer readable program code of said programmable computer processor.

19. The electronic device of Claim 18, wherein said processor additionally updates said
5 information regarding said electronic device stored by said processor with status information related to said update to computer readable program code of said programmable computer processor, and said processor update signal selected information comprises at least said status information.

20. The electronic device of Claim 19, wherein said processor comprises programmable logic
10 and said predetermined state of said processor comprises completion of an update to said programmable logic.

21. The electronic device of Claim 20, wherein said processor additionally updates said information regarding said electronic device stored by said processor with a version number of said update to said programmable logic, and said processor update signal selected information
15 comprises at least said version number of said update to said programmable logic.

22. The electronic device of Claim 15, wherein said predetermined state of said processor comprises a state achieved in response to an indication of completion of an engineering change to said electronic device.

23. The electronic device of Claim 22, wherein said processor additionally updates said information regarding said electronic device stored by said processor with an engineering change number of said engineering change to said electronic device, and said processor update signal selected information comprises at least said engineering change number of said engineering
5 change.

24. The electronic device of Claim 15, wherein said predetermined state of said processor comprises a state achieved in response to an indication of a change to said at least one operational element.

25. The electronic device of Claim 24, wherein said processor additionally updates said
10 information regarding said electronic device stored by said processor with status information related to said change to said at least one operational element, and said processor update signal selected information comprises at least said status information.

26. The electronic device of Claim 15, additionally comprising an input/output interface; and said predetermined state of said processor comprises a state achieved in response to a signal
15 received at said input/output interface.

27. The electronic device of Claim 26, wherein said processor additionally selects said information stored by said processor in accordance with said signal received at said input/output interface.

28. The electronic device of Claim 15, wherein said electronic device comprises a component for a system, said system comprising a network coupling said electronic device within said system, and wherein said electronic device additionally comprises a network interface to said network; and said predetermined state of said processor comprises a state achieved in response to
5 a signal received at said network interface.

29. The electronic device of Claim 28, wherein said processor additionally selects said information stored by said processor in accordance with said signal received at said network interface.

30. The electronic device of Claim 15, wherein said predetermined state of said processor
10 comprises an expiration of a predetermined interval of time.

31. A computer program product usable with a processor of an electronic device, said computer program product having computer readable program code embodied therein for operating at least one operational element and an electronic persistent visual display having an input, said electronic persistent visual display providing a visual label display which persists
5 indefinitely, until updated by an input signal at said input; said computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code causing said processor to store information regarding said electronic device; and

computer readable program code causing said processor to, in response to a
10 predetermined state, provide an update input signal at said electronic persistent visual display input, said update input signal comprising selected said information regarding said electronic device stored by said processor, said update signal to update said visual label display of said electronic persistent visual display.

32. The computer program product of Claim 31, wherein said predetermined state of said
15 processor comprises a power-on and/or reset of said processor.

33. The computer program product of Claim 31, additionally comprising computer readable program code which causes said processor to update said information regarding said electronic device stored by said processor, and wherein said processor update input signal selected information comprises at least said updated information regarding said electronic device.

34. The computer program product of Claim 31, wherein said predetermined state of said processor comprises completion of an update to computer readable program code of said processor.

35. The computer program product of Claim 34, additionally comprising computer readable
5 program code which causes said processor to update said information regarding said electronic device stored by said processor, and to update said information regarding said electronic device with status information related to said update, and wherein said processor update signal selected information comprises at least said status information.

36. The computer program product of Claim 31, additionally comprising computer readable
10 program code which causes said processor to update said information regarding said electronic device stored by said processor with status information related to an engineering change to said electronic device, and wherein said processor update signal selected information comprises at least said status information.

37. The computer program product of Claim 31, wherein said predetermined state of said
15 processor comprises a state achieved in response to an indication of a change to said at least one operational element.

38. The computer program product of Claim 37, additionally comprising computer readable program code which causes said processor to update said information regarding said electronic device stored by said processor with status information related to said change to said at least one operational element, and wherein said processor update signal selected information comprises at
5 least said status information.

39. The computer program product of Claim 31, wherein said predetermined state of said processor comprises an expiration of a predetermined interval of time.

40. A system comprising:

a network; and

a plurality of components, at least one of said components comprising:

a network interface to said network;

5 an electronic persistent visual display mounted at said component, said electronic persistent visual display having an input, said electronic persistent visual display providing a visual label display which persists indefinitely, until updated by an input signal at said input;

at least one operational element; and

10 a processor for operating said at least one operational element:

said processor storing information regarding said component; and

said processor, in response to a predetermined state, providing an update input signal at said electronic persistent visual display input, said update input signal comprising selected said information regarding said component stored by said processor,
15 said update signal to update said visual label display of said electronic persistent visual display.

41. The system of Claim 40, wherein said predetermined state of said processor of said at least one component comprises a power-on and/or reset of said component.

42. The system of Claim 40, wherein said predetermined state of said processor of said at least one component, comprises a state achieved in response to a signal received at said network interface.

43. The system of Claim 42, wherein said processor of said at least one component,
5 additionally selects said information stored by said processor in accordance with said signal received at said network interface.

44. The system of Claim 40, wherein said predetermined state of said processor of said at least one component comprises an expiration of a predetermined interval of time.